

Hamilton Field, Frame Building Type H  
(Facility Nos. 801, 803, 816, 829)  
State Access Road northwest of  
Northwestern Pacific Railroad crossing  
Novato  
Marin County  
California

HABS No. CA-2398-AT

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California

# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD  
Frame Building Type H  
(Facility Nos. 801, 803, 816, 829)

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
IAT-

HABS No. CA-2398-AT

## Location:

Hamilton Army Air Field  
Novato, Marin County, California  
Frame Building Type H  
Supply and Equipment Warehouse (Facility No. 801 [State Access Road south of Northwestern Pacific Railroad line]), Commissary (#803 [State Access Road south of Northwestern Pacific Railroad line]), Recreation/Workshop (#816 [State Access Road south of Northwestern Pacific Railroad line]), Store/Commissary (#829 [Skeet Range road at intersection with Northwestern Pacific Railroad line])

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)  
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)  
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; 8: 544720/4212220;  
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

## Significance:

Buildings 801, 803, 816, and 829 are considered significant for their association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater. These buildings were added to the base during World War II when operations there were greatly expanded. They served as supply and storage areas for the commissary built nearby to accommodate families living in Lanham Housing, a World War II complex.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

## Description:

The commissary buildings are all one-story rectilinear frame buildings that measure 180 feet by 50 feet. They have low-pitched gable roofs covered with composition shingles and louvered vents in the gable ends. Metal ventilators are located on the roofs. Foundations and floors are concrete. The original horizontal board exterior walls have all been covered with rough sawn plywood siding. Exterior openings consist of industrial suspended sliding metal warehouse doors and solid core wood pedestrian doors with four-lights over three or five recessed panels. Some of the buildings have small single pane fixed windows immediately below the roofline, while others have one-over-one light frame sash. Lighting fixtures are modern two-tube fluorescent. Interiors are open storage rooms with small offices and latrines separated by wood temporary partition walls.

**Historical Context:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

These warehouses were built in 1943 as part of the expanded commissary complex built to accommodate expanded world War II family housing. These facilities were transferred to the U. S. Navy in 1974 and are used as storehouses for the existing Navy commissary (Facilities No. 801, 805), as an automobile shop (Facility 816) and as a general warehouse (Facility 829).

**Sources:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the following project Field Record photos:

Facility No. 801, Supply/Equipment Warehouse: Field Record, roll 90, exposures 3-4

Facility No. 803, Commissary: Field Record, roll 90, exposures 1-2, 5-6

Facility No. 816, Recreation/Workshop: Field Record, roll 89, exposures 5-12

Facility No. 829, Store/Commissary: Field Record, roll 88, exposures 11-12; roll 89, exposures 1-4

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

**Project Information:**

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a

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Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

Text prepared by: Mary L. Maniery/Judith Marvin

Title: Historian/Architectural Historian

Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento, California

Date prepared: July 1995

Photography prepared by: David De Vries

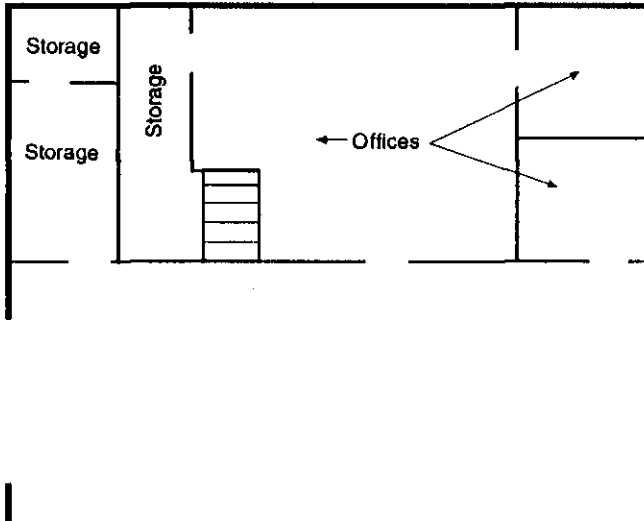
Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California

Date of photographs: October 1994



50'

1st Floor



50'

2nd Floor

